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Letter dated 19 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Republic of the Philippines in the month of June 2004 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if this document could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lauro L. **Baja**, Jr.
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

04-46575 (E) 130904

Annex to the letter dated 19 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Philippines (June 2004)

Introduction

The Republic of the Philippines, with its Permanent Representative, Ambassador Lauro L. Baja, Jr., at the helm, served as President of the Security Council in June 2004.

The Security Council held 22 formal meetings, 16 consultations of the whole, adopted five resolutions and five presidential statements and issued six statements to the press during the month under review.

Special events and significant milestones highlighted the work of the Security Council in the month of June. The Council held its annual retreat in the first week of the month, during which it conducted in-depth discussions on West Africa and Iraq. The handover of full sovereignty to the Interim Government of Iraq also marked an important development in the work of the Council earlier in the month.

The Council paid considerable attention to the African continent during the month. The Council heard important briefings on Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau. It also sent a mission to the West African region, which visited Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria. The Council also established a new special political mission to the Sudan.

The Council heard briefings and discussed the latest developments with regard to Haiti, Afghanistan, and the Middle East peace process.

The work of the Council for the month of June included important matters pertaining to its subsidiary bodies. The Council agreed on the composition of the Bureau of the Committee established under resolution 1540 (2004). The Council was also briefed on the activities of UNMOVIC and the status of the completion strategies of the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

During the month of June the Council extended the mandates of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville. New representatives and envoys of the United Nations were also appointed for the Sudan, Western Sahara and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. In the same month the United Nations Force Commander for Haiti was appointed.

Finally, the Council held two important thematic debates in June. The first theme considered by the Council was the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The debate on the second theme, which pertained to the role of civil society in post-conflict peace-building, marked the first time that the Council had considered the issue.

Asia

Iraq

Early in June, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a revised text of the draft resolution on Iraq. The draft text was presented in response to earlier discussions in the Council as well as the views received from representatives of the Government of Iraq and countries neighbouring Iraq.

On 3 June, the Secretary-General briefed members of the Council on the work of his Special Adviser, Lakhdar Brahimi, regarding the formation of the Interim Government of Iraq and preparations for the National Conference and elections. The Secretary-General noted the appointment of Fouad Massoum as head of the Preparatory Committee for the National Conference. He also informed the Council that the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission had been established with the appointment of the National Electoral Director and seven electoral commissioners.

After the briefing by the Secretary-General, the Council at its 4982nd meeting, on 3 June, heard a statement by the Foreign Minister-designate of the Interim Government of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari. He spoke on the situation in Iraq and the draft resolution. He later had a separate meeting with the President of the Council.

On Sunday, 6 June, the Council considered a letter from the Prime Minister-designate of the Interim Government of Iraq, Ilyad Alawi, and a letter from the Secretary of State of the United States, Colin Powell, on the relationship between the Interim Government of Iraq and the multinational force. The two letters were annexed to the draft resolution.

At its 4984th meeting, on 7 June, the Council was briefed by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the process that led to the selection of the Interim Government of Iraq on 1 June. He emphasized the critical need to support the Interim Government of Iraq so as to create the conditions necessary for the holding of credible and fair elections before the end of January 2005.

The Secretary-General participated in the meeting and reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to do its utmost in the restoration of peace and stability in Iraq. He looked forward to the provision of a clear mandate by the Security Council as well as the provision of adequate security on the ground for United Nations staff and personnel. The Secretary-General addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/461) on 7 June informing members of the Council that following his meeting on 19 January 2004 with the Governing Council of Iraq and the Coalition Provisional Authority, he had responded positively to their request for United Nations assistance in Iraq's political transition process. He also stated that Mr. Brahimi had undertaken three missions to Iraq from February to June 2004 to help facilitate a process of national dialogue and consensus-building among Iraqis. A copy of the briefing of 7 June by Mr. Brahimi, which would constitute the report on the latter's third and latest mission to Iraq, was provided to the Council.

Following the meeting on 7 June, the United States and the United Kingdom introduced a further revised text of the draft resolution to members of the Council in closed consultations. The revised text contained substantive changes following earlier discussions among Council members and reflecting the views of Iraq, countries in the region and the Secretary-General.

At its 4987th meeting, on 8 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1546 (2004), by which, inter alia, it endorsed the Interim Government of Iraq and welcomed the end of occupation of the country by 30 June.

On 28 June, full sovereignty, authority and responsibility was formally transferred to the Interim Government of Iraq. The Security Council on the same day issued a press statement welcoming the handover of sovereignty to the Iraqis (see appendix II).

Middle East peace process

At its 4995th meeting, on 23 June, the Council heard a briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, given by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast.

The Under-Secretary-General said that, since the Secretariat's last briefing to the Council, the situation in the Middle East had remained tense. The conflict continued to claim lives, economic conditions worsened, hope for a better future was low, and suffering continued. Despite the gloomy picture, peace and reconciliation were not beyond reach. Everyone knew the parameters of that peace, but the parties' readiness to take the difficult, but necessary, decisions remained elusive.

He said that implementation of the "road map" had stalled, but the plan remained a solid map that included both the road and the destination. He expressed the view that the proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank could help to break the stalemate. Such withdrawal would not be enough, however, as similar steps had to be taken in the West Bank as well. These actions would also not be a substitute for Israel's compliance with other obligations under the road map, nor would they exempt Israel from compliance with its obligations as an occupying Power in accordance with international humanitarian law.

On the other hand, the Under-Secretary-General said that the Palestinian Authority also had a major role to play in the success of the withdrawal. The Authority must establish a security zone in the vacated areas. It must also revitalize, reorganize and reform the Authority and become a full partner for peace.

Afghanistan

The Council issued a press statement on 10 June, in which it condemned in the strongest terms the killing of 11 Chinese workers and the injuring of others in a terrorist attack in Jalaouk, Afghanistan, on the same day, and expressed its deep sympathies to the victims and their families as well as the people and Government of China, also took the opportunity to reiterate that terrorism presented a grave threat to international peace and security and affirmed its determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations (see appendix II).

On 18 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the members of the Council on the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the political process leading to the national elections envisaged for September 2004. He reported recent attacks against humanitarian, reconstruction, electoral and government workers, which have led to closures of electoral registration centres around the country. He stressed the need for

the deployment of more security forces to preserve the timeline for the electoral process.

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

The members of the Council were briefed on 28 June by the Director of the Asia and the Pacific Division of the Department of Political Affairs on the latest developments in the peace process in Bougainville, as contained in the Secretary-General's letter to the President of the Security Council of 25 June (S/2004/526).

The Director informed the Council members that the weapons disposal programme was 85 per cent complete. He also informed the members of the Council about the possibility of the Bougainville Constituent Assembly adopting the constitution by the end of July 2004, as its third and final draft had recently been completed by the Bougainville Constitution Commission. He conveyed the intention of both the Government of Papua New Guinea and the leaders of Bougainville to hold elections by the end of 2004. He reiterated the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) for another six months, until 31 December 2004.

In reply to the letter from the Secretary-General of 25 June the President of the Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on 30 June (S/2004/527) conveying the information that the Council took note of the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of UNOMB until 31 December 2004. The President informed the Secretary-General that the Council noted that it was its intention that this would be the final extension of the mission. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council within three months on an assessment of the ground situation and on a mission closure plan.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 24 June, the Council held its 4996th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided a briefing to the Council and the troop-contributing countries.

The members of the Council received a briefing on 25 June from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF (S/2004/499). The Under-Secretary-General, among other things, drew to the attention of the members of the Council the generally satisfactory security situation in the area of operations of UNDOF, except in the conflict-affected area of the Shab'a farms. He informed the Council members that the Secretary-General would propose the extension of the mandate of UNDOF for a further six-month period because of the continuing tension in the Middle East.

At its 4998th meeting, on 29 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1550 (2004), by which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF for another six months, until 31 December 2004.

In connection with the adoption of resolution 1550 (2004) the Council authorized the President of the Council to make the following complementary statement on behalf of the Council:

"As is known, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2004/499) states in paragraph 12: '... the situation in the Middle East is very tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached'. That statement of the Secretary-General reflects the view of the Security Council."

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Secretary-General provided a briefing on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the Council's retreat on 4 and 5 June.

In view of the alarming developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the Council agreed on a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/19) condemning the seizure of the town of Bukavu on 2 June by dissident forces and the atrocities and human rights violations that had occurred in this context. The Council, inter alia, reaffirmed its commitment to, and respect for, the national sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, expressed its solidarity with the Congolese people and its full support to the Government of National Unity and Transition, and warned the States neighbouring the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the consequences of support to the armed rebel groups. The President of the Council read out the statement at the 4985th meeting, on 7 June.

On 9 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the latest developments in the crisis in Bukavu. He indicated that dissident forces had withdrawn from Bukavu, and commended the swift reaction by the international community in averting the crisis. According to the Under-Secretary-General, the crisis had drawn attention to the need to re-assess the mandate and resources of MONUC to enable it to be a reliable partner in the transition process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council again on 22 June on the ongoing developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After his briefing on 9 June, a coup had been attempted against the Transitional Government in Kinshasa on 10 and 11 June. The dissident forces and their leader, Colonel Mutebusi, that tried to take over Bukavu in the first week of the month had been disarmed and taken into custody by Rwandan forces after they crossed the border. Forces belonging to the Transitional Government had increased their troops on the eastern border. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph Kabila, and the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, also agreed to meet in the coming days. The Under-Secretary-General stressed the need for more direct political engagement by the international community in the transition process. He urged for a clear message that "spoilers" would be held individually responsible and urged the neighbours of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, not to interfere in the country's internal affairs.

At the 4994th meeting, on 22 June, the President of the Council read out a statement (S/PRST/2004/21) reiterating the Council's grave concern at the continued violence and instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council

condemned, in the strongest terms, any involvement by outside forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It urged all Congolese parties, inter alia, to remain fully committed to the peace process and the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement and to respect the Government of National Unity and Transition, as the sole legitimate governing authority in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council also strongly encouraged the Heads of State of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi to work together to reduce tensions and restore confidence in the region, and stressed that any attempt to disrupt the peace and transition process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo would not be tolerated.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 10 June, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the latest political and military developments in Côte d'Ivoire. The situation in the country had been deteriorating, which would pose a grave threat to the peace process established under the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The Under-Secretary-General stressed the urgent need for all the parties to resume dialogue. He also called on them to respect the safety of United Nations personnel, whose security had been threatened over the past few weeks.

All the members of the Council emphasized that the resolution of the problem would be the primary responsibility of the Ivorians themselves. There was a broad understanding among most of the members of the Council on the need for a stronger message to the parties, including the possible institution of targeted sanctions should they continue to ignore repeated calls to resume dialogue.

Sudan

On 11 June, at its 4988th meeting, the Council, after consideration of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/453), unanimously adopted resolution 1547 (2004) on the Sudan, under which it, inter alia, welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, for an initial period of three months and under the authority of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, a United Nations advance team in the Sudan as a special political mission, dedicated to preparing for the international monitoring foreseen in the Naivasha Agreement on Security Arrangements, which would facilitate contacts with the parties concerned and would prepare for the introduction of a peace support operation following the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement.

The Council expressed its readiness to consider establishing a United Nations operation to support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement, and requested the Secretary-General to submit recommendations for the size, structure and mandate of such an operation to the Council as soon as possible after the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement. It also endorsed the conclusions of the Secretary-General with regard to the situation in the Sudan, in particular Darfur and the Upper Nile, as set out in paragraph 22 of his report.

The Secretary-General addressed a letter to the President of the Council on 17 June (S/2004/503) informing him that, following the usual consultations, he intended to appoint Jan Pronk (Netherlands) as his Special Representative for the Sudan and head of the peace support operation which could be authorized by the

Council upon the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army.

On 18 June the President of the Security Council replied to the Secretary-General (S/2004/504) that the Council took note of his intention to appoint Mr. Pronk as his Special Representative for the Sudan.

Liberia

At its 4981st meeting, on 3 June, the Council was briefed on the latest developments in Liberia by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Jacques Paul Klein, and by the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, Charles Gyude Bryant. Both of them expressed the view that there was a need to lift the diamond and timber sanctions in Liberia as soon as possible to enable the National Transitional Government to use the country's own resources for its reconstruction and development to the benefit of the Liberian people.

On 10 June, the Chairman of the Committee concerning Liberia established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003), Ambassador Munir Akram (Pakistan), reported on the work of the Committee. He also introduced the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia (S/2004/396). Among other things, the Chairman reported that the Committee had established a new travel ban list for Liberia. He informed the Council members that the Committee was of the view that it would still be premature to lift the sanctions concerning Liberia. On a positive note, he said that since the adoption of resolution 1521 (2003) the Panel of Experts had reported no violations of the sanctions on arms, diamonds or timber.

The Council agreed to issue a statement to the press on 10 June, in which, inter alia, it noted the improved situation in Liberia and its positive impact on the enforcement of the sanctions regime; that no major violations of the arms embargo and diamond and timber sanctions had been reported since August 2003; and that peace, however, was still fragile and the conditions for the lifting of the sanctions had yet to be fully met (see appendix II).

At its 4991st meeting, on 17 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1549 (2004), by which, inter alia, it re-established the Panel of Experts on Liberia appointed under paragraph 22 of resolution 1521 (2003). The mandate of the Panel would end on 21 December 2004.

Guinea-Bissau

The Council held consultations on 18 June on the developments in Guinea-Bissau. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, introduced the sixteenth report of the Secretary-General on Guinea-Bissau and on the work of UNOGBIS (S/2004/456). The Assistant Secretary-General described the growing cooperation among the politicians, military and civil society organizations to implement the first phase of the transition. That cooperation was a step in the right direction for achieving the goals of the transition process. Despite the positive outlook, the situation would remain difficult as the country is poised for the presidential elections in March 2005 and for the important reforms required in the military and the civil service sectors. The Assistant Secretary-General appealed for more international support for the national reconciliation process.

The Council agreed to issue a presidential statement on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/PRST/2004/20), which the President of the Council read out at the 4992nd meeting, on the same day. The Council, inter alia, expressed its satisfaction regarding the progress towards restoring constitutional order, in accordance with the Transition Charter provisions and calendar, in particular the installation of a new National Popular Assembly and a new Government, which completed the first phase of the transitional process due to end with the holding of presidential elections by March 2005. The Council also encouraged all parties, and the new government established on 12 May 2004, to faithfully adhere to the provisions of the Transition Charter in order to achieve and consolidate national reconciliation and to ensure the full restoration of constitutional order; encouraged the national authorities to continue to strengthen the rule of law and respect for human rights and to resolve outstanding human rights issues; and commended the national authorities and the people of Guinea-Bissau for their continued commitment and dedication to democracy. The Council expressed, nonetheless, its concern with the fragility of the democratization process in Guinea-Bissau, due mainly to the country's deep-rooted structural problems, including the weakness of State institutions and structures, as well as persistent economic and social crisis.

Western Sahara

The Secretary-General addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council on 11 June (S/2004/492) regarding the tenure of James A. Baker III as the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara. As envoy, Mr. Baker was to help in the assessment of the situation and to make recommendations in regard to all questions related to the impasse in the implementation of the settlement plan.

The Secretary-General informed the members of the Council that, during the seven years that Mr. Baker had served as his Personal Envoy, he had held 14 formal and numerous informal meetings with the parties, Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, and with the neighbouring countries Algeria and Mauritania, and proposed a number of possible approaches to solving the conflict. While progress had been made, the parties had not been able to reach an agreement. Mr. Baker had informed the Secretary-General that he had done all he could do on this issue and was therefore offering his resignation as Personal Envoy. The Secretary-General had accepted Mr. Baker's resignation.

The Secretary-General had decided that Alvaro de Soto, in his capacity as Special Representative for Western Sahara, would continue to work with the parties and neighbouring countries in pursuit of a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Great Lakes region

In a letter of 12 March 2004 (S/2004/528) to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General informed the Council that major progress had been made over the past six months towards convening an international conference on the Great Lakes region. With the help of the United Nations, the African Union and donor countries, the countries of the region had established a framework for their discussions of substantive issues. They had established national preparatory

committees and agreed to hold several preparatory and thematic meetings prior to the two summit meetings.

Given the progress made in the preparatory process, the Secretary-General drew attention to the increasing workload that the Office of his Special Representative would face over the coming months. In particular, it must assist the countries of the region in organizing and providing follow-up to preparatory meetings and in the establishment and smooth operation of the national preparatory committees. The Office had seven administrators, including the Special Representative. In order for it to perform its tasks efficiently, the Secretary-General requested resources to appoint nine additional international civil servants to augment the present complement of the Office of the Special Representative.

The President of the Council replied to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 30 June (S/2004/529) conveying the information that the members of the Council had accorded full attention to his letter. The members of the Council asked for more detailed information on the need for the nine additional international civil servants referred to in the letter of the Secretary-General.

Europe

Cyprus

At its 4983rd meeting, on 7 June, the Council held consultations in private with troop-contributing countries to UNFICYP on the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/427) on the activities of the peacekeeping mission from 11 November 2003 to 20 May 2004.

At its 4986th meeting, on 8 June, the Council received a briefing from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2004/437). He said that the situation in Cyprus remained volatile following the rejection by the Greek Cypriots of the settlement plan. He characterized the approval of the plan by the Turkish Cypriots as a "fundamental turnabout". He also said that it was the Secretary-General's view that, given the current situation, there was no basis for resuming the good offices mission. The Special Adviser indicated the need for a fundamental reassessment of the full range of United Nations activities in the realm of both good offices and peacekeeping.

After the briefing, the members of the Council continued to consider the matter in closed consultations. At this time they also received a briefing on the Secretary-General's report on UNFICYP (S/2004/427), which was provided by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who highlighted the recommendation for the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP for another six months. He also informed the Council members of the Secretary-General's intention to review the mandate, force levels, and concept of operations of UNFICYP.

At its 4989th meeting, on 11 June, the Council, by resolution 1548 (2004), extended the mandate of UNFICYP for another six months, until 15 December 2004. The Council, inter alia, also decided to consider the recommendations that the Secretary-General would provide after his review of UNFICYP and to act on them within a month of receiving them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Secretary-General addressed a letter to the President of the Council (S/2004/488) on 11 June conveying a communication, dated 8 June, from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In accordance with resolution 1088 (1996), the communication from NATO attached the monthly report on SFOR operations for April 2004.

According to the NATO report, SFOR had continued to maintain a safe and secure environment in its area of operations. During the month of April 2004, local police had been more vigilant concerning persons indicted of war crimes and increasingly eager to cooperate. Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable with no serious incidents to report. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel during the reporting period. SFOR continued to monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and remained active in weapons collection and destruction and framework operations.

Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro

The Secretary-General addressed a letter to the President of the Council on 11 June (S/2004/487) conveying, pursuant to resolution 1244 (1999), a report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 April 2004.

The report stated that the overall situation within Kosovo had remained stable, although there was a lingering perception that the underlying issues that contributed to the outbreak of violence in March 2004 remained largely unresolved within the province. Many Kosovo Serbs were of the belief that the period of calm did not reflect the danger they faced individually or as a community.

Kosovo Albanian candidates and political parties continued to consolidate their positions ahead of the upcoming elections and had been focused on improving the perception of the international community with respect to Kosovo.

Although the level of inter-ethnic and criminal violence had declined throughout the month under review, it was widely believed that violence could easily surge again with an incident, real or perceived, similar to the one seen in March 2004. The threat against the Kosovo Force remained relatively low throughout the month.

On 15 June, the Secretary-General wrote a letter to the President of the Council (S/2004/500) informing the Council members of his intention to appoint Søren Jessen-Petersen (Denmark) as his Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Mr. Jessen-Petersen was to succeed Harri Holkeri, who had resigned for health reasons.

The President of the Council replied to the Secretary-General on 18 June (S/2004/501) informing him that his intention to appoint Mr. Jessen-Petersen as Special Representative and Head of UNMIK had been noted by the Council members.

Americas

Haiti

The President of the Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on 1 June (S/2004/440) in reply to the letter of the Secretary-General dated 27 May (S/2004/439). The President of the Council conveyed the information that the Council took note of his intention to appoint Lieutenant General Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira (Brazil) as Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the members of the Council on 16 June on the situation in Haiti. The Council members had before them the status report (S/2004/497) of the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti, conveyed to them by the Secretary-General on the same day.

The Assistant Secretary-General outlined to the members of the Council the efforts being made to establish MINUSTAH. He said it was envisaged that the transfer of authority from the Multinational Interim Force to MINUSTAH would occur on or before 1 July. He announced the appointment by the Secretary-General of Adama Guindo as Officer-in-Charge of MINUSTAH pending the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General. He stressed the need for the continued support by donor countries and troop-contributing countries and for the political support by the Council for MINUSTAH to succeed.

At the end of the meeting the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it noted that the situation in Haiti had remained stable and calm, welcomed the deployment of MINUSTAH and called on the international community to rigorously support the Transitional Government in Haiti in its efforts to establish secure and stable conditions in the country (see appendix II).

Subsidiary bodies

UNMOVIC

The members of the Council received a briefing on 9 June on the seventeenth quarterly report on the activities of UNMOVIC (S/2004/435) from the Commission's Acting Chairman, Demetrios Perricos, who reported that the main activities of the Commission over the past quarter concentrated on two activities, namely, the preparation of the compendium on the nature and extent of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and related programmes; and the revision and adaptation of the ongoing monitoring and verification plan.

The Acting Chairman informed the Council that UNMOVIC had had no contacts with the Iraq Survey Group in Iraq. He said that the Commission had not received a copy of the Survey Group's status report that was presented to the United States Senate Armed Services Committee on 30 March 2004.

He cited the reported transfers from Iraq of items and materials subject to the ongoing monitoring and verification regime as scrap to foreign markets in the region, Europe and Asia. He underlined the risk of proliferation if dual-use materials and equipment were transferred to unknown locations. He urged the Council to review the mandate of UNMOVIC and to consider drawing upon its expertise in

other fields of Security Council activity, even in the work of the Committee recently established under resolution 1540 (2004).

Regarding the suggestion to extend the expertise of UNMOVIC beyond Iraq, one delegation raised a point of order and stated that such a proposal was unwarranted and unacceptable since the item was not on the agenda of the Council and that the present consultations were convened to hear only about the activities of UNMOVIC in Iraq, to which its mandate was confined.

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The members of the Council held consultations on 9 June on the Committee established under paragraph 4 of resolution 1540 (2004). They expressed support for the appointment of Romania as Chairman of the Committee, and the Philippines as Vice-Chairman. If the need arose, many Council members expressed their readiness to appoint a second Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

The President of the Security Council issued a note on 11 June (S/2004/472) conveying the information that, pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1540 (2004) and following consultations among the members of the Council, the members of the Council had agreed to elect Mihnea Ioan Motoc (Romania) as Chairman and Lauro L. Baja, Jr. (Philippines) as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

International Tribunals

At its 4999th meeting, on 29 June, the Council held discussions on the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

Under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, the Council invited Judge Theodor Meron, President of the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; Judge Erik Møse, President of the Tribunal for Rwanda; Carla Del Ponte, Prosecutor of the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; and Hassan Bubacar Jallow, Prosecutor of the Tribunal for Rwanda, to participate in the discussion.

The Council invited, under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure, the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Rwanda and Serbia and Montenegro, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

The Council held discussions on the completion strategies for the two Tribunals as embodied under resolutions 1503 (2003) and 1534 (2004). Judge Meron and Prosecutor Del Ponte, for the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and Judge Møse and Prosecutor Jallow, for the Tribunal for Rwanda, briefed the Council on the status of the implementation by the two Tribunals of their completion strategies. They also provided assessments of the existing and possible constraints that could hamper the achievement of the completion goals adopted by the Council for the Tribunals. They expanded on the contents of the letters sent to the President of the Council by the President of the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on

21 May 2004 (S/2004/420) and by the President of the Tribunal for Rwanda on 30 April 2004 (S/2004/341).

The Council discussed the worsening financial situation of the two Tribunals due to the failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Earlier, the Secretary-General had brought to the attention of the Council the dire financial conditions of the two Tribunals in a letter to the President of the Council dated 24 June (S/2004/512). The adverse financial condition of the two Tribunals could have a negative impact on their ability to implement their completion strategies.

Thematic issues

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

The Council held a discussion at its 4990th meeting, on 14 June, on the theme "Protection of civilians in armed conflict". The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, briefed the Council on the fourth report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/431) on the topic. Aside from the members of the Council, 20 other delegations, at their request and with the consent of the Council, also participated in the debate.

In his briefing the Under-Secretary-General raised the following points. First, Governments bear the primary responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance and to protect civilians. This includes ensuring sustained humanitarian access to civilians in need. Second, a key challenge to the United Nations would be to ensure the security of both its own humanitarian personnel and those of its partners. Third, greater efforts must be exerted to better protect women and children caught in armed conflict. Fourth, the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons has increasingly become a great concern. The worldwide figure of 50 million is the current number of people displaced from their homes because of conflict. Fifth, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law characterize today's armed conflicts. In too many conflicts around the world, these crimes continue to be committed with total impunity. Perpetrators must be brought to justice, and potential perpetrators must be deterred. Finally, political interests, strategic priorities and media spotlight create enormously disproportionate responses to humanitarian and protection crises. Experience shows that skewed flows of humanitarian funding for complex emergencies undermine protection and assistance to civilians in need.

During the meeting some members of the Council and non-members alike expressed the view that the Council should consider adopting a resolution updating resolution 1296 (2000).

Role of civil society in post-conflict peace-building

The Council held a discussion on the role of civil society in post-conflict peace-building at its 4993rd meeting, on 22 June. Before the Council was a letter from the representative of the Philippines enclosing a concept paper on the subject (S/2004/442). The Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Delia Domingo Albert, chaired the meeting. The Secretary-General delivered the keynote speech of the meeting. The President of the Economic and Social Council and the representatives of CARE International and the International Center for Transitional

Justice also delivered statements. Aside from these participants, 12 other delegations participated in the discussion.

In his statement the Secretary-General called for a two-way dialogue between the United Nations and civil society to promote complementary efforts. He emphasized the need for involvement in the deliberative processes in peace-building initiatives. He invited the members of the Council to pay serious attention to the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons on the relationship between the United Nations and civil society. The Panel had proposed a number of concrete measures to increase the participation of civil society representatives from developing countries, and its report offered many innovative ideas for strengthening the partnership with civil society in humanitarian and development work. The report of the Panel also had a number of practical suggestions on how the Security Council could engage more effectively with civil society, including making better use of the Arria formula, holding seminars on issues of emerging importance, and convening independent commissions of inquiry after Council-mandated operations. The Secretary-General reminded the Council that many civil society organizations had shown that they could make a real contribution to the work of the United Nations in the areas of peace and security.

The President of the Economic and Social Council stressed that civil society organizations were an indispensable partner of the United Nations in peace-building activities, such as rehabilitation and reintegration at the local level, human rights, the rule of law, health and other social programmes, physical infrastructure, protection of the environment, demobilization programmes, protection of children in armed conflict, and confronting problems caused by landmines. A space was needed for civil society actors to participate and to play a role in peace-building.

Among the points highlighted by the other speakers were the critical role played by civil society and the need to engage its members in post-conflict peace-building, the need to seriously consider the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons, the importance of establishing a partnership between the United Nations and civil society in post-conflict peace-building even if the former were to retain the main responsibility for post-conflict reconstruction, and the indispensable obligation of civil society to provide support for United Nations efforts and to remain completely impartial and objective in pursuing its mission.

Other activities

Security Council retreat

The Council held its sixth annual retreat at the Green Tree Estate in Manhasset, New York. The retreat was convened by the Secretary-General following previous practice where participants spoke informally in their individual rather than national capacity. Fifteen representatives of the members of the Council participated in the retreat.

The participants in the retreat held an extensive discussion on the situation in Iraq, and on West Africa. Other issues discussed were the ongoing crises in Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region of Darfur in the Sudan.

Security Council mission to West Africa

The Security Council sent a mission to West Africa from 20 to 29 June. The mission visited Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea. The mission also visited Ghana, as ECOWAS Chairman, as well as Nigeria.

The goals of the mission were set out in the letter from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General dated 15 June (S/2004/491). They included the following: to identify a coherent strategy for United Nations intervention across the spectrum from conflict prevention to peace-building; to encourage and support the efforts of ECOWAS; and to consider how to build on current cooperation among United Nations missions and bodies in the subregion.

Following consultations with the members of the Council it was agreed that the composition of the mission would be: Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom), head of mission; Mourad Benmehidi (Algeria); Ismael Gaspar Martins (Angola); Joël W. Adechi (Benin); Irene Vida Gala (Brazil); Ignacio Llanos (Chile); Jiang Jiang (China); Jean-Marc de La Sablière (France); Stefan Delfs (Germany); Sohail Mahmood (Pakistan); Patrick Chuasoto (Philippines); Marius Ioan Dragolea (Romania); Ana Jimenez (Spain); and Sichan Siv (United States). The mission was joined in Guinea-Bissau by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau of the Economic and Social Council, Dumisani S. Kumalo (South Africa).

At its 5000th meeting, on 30 June, the Council heard an initial briefing on the results of the mission. The report of the mission was submitted shortly thereafter (S/2004/525).

The head of the mission and several of its members provided the Council with their initial impressions and perceptions on the accomplishments of the mission as well as on some specific objectives carried out in various countries visited.

Appendix I

Resolutions and statements adopted by the Security Council in June 2004

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Subject*
1546 (2004)	The situation between Iraq and Kuwait
1547 (2004)	Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
1548 (2004)	The situation in Cyprus
1549 (2004)	The situation in Liberia
1550 (2004)	The situation in the Middle East

Statements by the President

Statement number and date	*Subject*
S/PRST/2004/19 of 7 June 2004	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
S/PRST/2004/20 of 18 June 2004	The situation in Guinea-Bissau
S/PRST/2004/21 of 22 June 2004	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
S/PRST/2004/22 of 25 June 2004	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
S/PRST/2004/23 of 29 June 2004	The situation in the Middle East

Appendix II

Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in June 2004

Democratic Republic of the Congo (2 June)

The members of the Security Council heard this morning a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The members of the Council strongly condemned the fighting which arose in Bukavu recently, causing the deaths of a number of innocent civilians. They condemned these acts of violence and the human rights violations that accompanied them, and called upon all parties involved to bring an end to these hostilities immediately. They also condemned the incitement of hatred, especially against members of the local community, in particular those aimed at the Banyamulenge.

The members of the Council reaffirmed their full support for the peace and national reconciliation process, and for the transitional institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They condemned in this regard any impediment to the reinstatement of the authority of the State on the whole territory, in particular in Bukavu, and notably to the process of establishing a national unified and integrated police and army. They commended the restraint shown by States neighbouring the Democratic Republic of the Congo, also recalling the terms of Security Council resolution 1493 (2003), particularly those elements relating to regional security across the Great Lakes region. They called upon them to cooperate closely with each other to strengthen the security of their common borders.

The members of the Council paid tribute to the personnel of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose rapid action was instrumental in protecting the civilian population. They condemned the murder of a military observer, and demanded that those responsible for this crime be identified and brought to justice without delay.

Afghanistan (10 June)

The members of the Security Council condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Jalaouk, Afghanistan, on 10 June 2004, in which 11 Chinese construction workers were killed and some others were injured.

The members of the Council express their deepest sympathy and condolences to the people and the Government of the People's Republic of China and to the victims and their families.

The members of the Council urge all States, in accordance with their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001), to cooperate actively in an effort to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this attack.

The members of the Council reaffirm that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The members of the Council express their determination to combat all forms of terrorism in accordance with the responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

Liberia (10 June)

The Security Council conducted a mid-term review of the sanctions on Liberia in accordance with resolution 1521 (2003) of 22 December 2003. The members received a briefing from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) on the work of the Committee, including its discussions on the latest report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

The members of the Council took note of the improved situation in Liberia and its positive impact on the enforcement of the sanctions regime. They also noted that no major violations of the arms embargo and diamond and timber sanctions had been reported since August 2003. They, however, felt that peace was still fragile and that the conditions for the lifting of the sanctions were yet to be fully met.

The members of the Council took note of the views expressed in the Council on 3 June 2004 by the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, Gyude Bryant, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jacques Klein, on the need to lift the diamond and timber sanctions as soon as possible to enable the National Transitional Government to use Liberia's own resources for its reconstruction and development to the benefit of the Liberian people.

The members of the Council acknowledged progress made by the National Transitional Government on meeting the conditions for the lifting of the measures, in particular diamond and timber sanctions, and expressed their readiness to assist the Liberian authorities in fulfilling those conditions.

The members of the Council emphasized that the continuation of the measures on Liberia was not meant to be punitive for the National Transitional Government and the Liberian people but to ensure that the peace process was irreversible. They expressed their readiness to keep the measures on diamonds and timber under regular review with a view to their possible termination, based on further evaluation of the progress made on the benchmarks.

The members of the Council recognized the difficulties faced by the National Transitional Government with regard to its efforts for reconstruction and recovery, and called on the international community to provide assistance to Liberia in a timely manner and, in particular, to redeem the pledges made at the Reconstruction Conference held in New York on 5 and 6 February 2004.

Memorial ceremony on United Nations Staff Day (11 June)

Following is the statement of Lauro L. Baja (Philippines), President of the Security Council, delivered on behalf of the Council during the United Nations Staff Day Memorial Ceremony at Headquarters on 11 June:

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the members of the Security Council in today's solemn ceremony remembering your co-workers who have fallen since last year's United Nations Staff Day.

As their names are read during the later part of this programme, we should console ourselves with the thought that they have not left us in vain. Their passing will inspire us to carry with firmer resolve and with renewed vigour the torch that translates the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations into reality — by keeping the peace, feeding the hungry, giving shelter to the roofless, caring for the sick, educating the unlettered, and enabling the impoverished to help themselves in rebuilding their nations and their economies in conflict-stricken parts of the world.

This occasion should also be an opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women of the United Nations and its associated organizations in the field, both civilians and those wearing the blue helmet, who are undaunted by the inexorable perils attendant on their work. Together with their colleagues in Headquarters, this pursuit of the goals of the United Nations serves as a collective conscience and moral force of mankind and helps to actualize the universal hopes in the United Nations for the promotion of peace, justice and prosperity.

The adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1502 (2003) on 26 August 2003 has raised the level of importance of and concern for the safety and protection of humanitarian personnel, United Nations and associated personnel. It serves notice to concerned Governments to ensure that crimes committed against them do not remain unpunished. It also expresses the Council's determination to take appropriate steps to ensure their safety and security.

In his latest report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General observed that almost two thirds of the States Members of the United Nations have yet to ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. To enhance its protective regime, this 1994 Convention should be a universal international instrument at the earliest possible time.

I commend your yearly observance of the United Nations Staff Day honouring the fallen among your ranks. The Council remains and will remain seized of the issue of the safety and security of all United Nations and associated personnel.

Haiti (16 June)

The members of the Council heard a presentation by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the recent developments in Haiti, who stressed the fact that the situation there remained stable and calm. He provided an update on the establishment of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and told members that MINUSTAH is on track with regard to establishing an effective military component, although reinforcement will be needed in the future. On the civilian police side, he assured the Council that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is working hard to build an effective force. He also talked about political and humanitarian issues, including the recent floods.

The members of the Security Council welcomed the deployment of MINUSTAH and the coordination process with the elements of the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) that will remain in place. The members thanked Canada, Chile, France and the United States for their contributions to MIF, and Brazil, Chile and Canada for their timely participation in MINUSTAH. In this regard, they expressed hope that potential troop-contributing countries would fulfil their offers so as to avoid a serious force deployment gap in the transition period.

In this crucial phase of the transition period, Council members welcomed the assistance provided by the international community for the stabilization and recovery of Haiti.

The members of the Council called upon the international community to assist the Transitional Government in its endeavour to establish secure and stable conditions in Haiti. The members of the Council recalled the crucial importance of the promotion of long-term social and economic development and of the fight against poverty in Haiti, in order to sustain stability and peace in that country.

The members of the Council encourage all Haitian political actors to continue their efforts through an inclusive dialogue to lay down the foundations of a peaceful and democratic political environment in the country.

The members of the Council stressed the importance of a donors' conference to be held in Washington on 19 and 20 July, and urged generous and timely international support.

Iraq (28 June)

The members of the Security Council welcome the handover of full responsibility and authority for governing Iraq to the fully sovereign and independent Interim Government of Iraq, thus ending the occupation of the country. The members of the Council reaffirm the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

The members of the Council reiterate fully resolution 1546 (2004), including the proposed timetable for the political transition, the possibility of an international meeting, and the leading role of the United Nations to assist the Interim Government of Iraq in implementing the political process leading, inter alia, to elections no later than 31 January 2005. The members of the Council call on all Iraqis to implement these arrangements peaceably and in full.

The members of the Council reiterate their call to all States and relevant international and regional organizations to support the Interim Government of Iraq in the implementation of this process, and in its efforts to bring economic reconstruction, peace, unity and stability to Iraq.

The members of the Council condemn, in the strongest terms, the continued violence in Iraq, which should not be allowed to disrupt Iraq's political and economic transition.

United Nations S/2004/623

Security Council

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Letter dated 13 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment by the presidency of Romania of the work of the Security Council during July 2004 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared on my own authority after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mihnea **Motoc**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-46519 (E) 310804

Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of Romania (July 2004)

Introduction

During the presidency of Romania in July 2004, the major focus of the Security Council was on Africa, particular attention being given to the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

On African issues, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General on his visit to the Darfur region of the Sudan and held ongoing consultations throughout the month on a draft resolution that was eventually adopted on 30 July. It also held consultations on the situation in Sierra Leone, reviewed the political impasse between Eritrea and Ethiopia and considered the situation in Somalia, after which it issued a presidential statement. In addition, the Council was briefed on the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic and, at a public meeting, it heard a comprehensive briefing on the mission to West Africa in June 2004 led by Ambassador Sir Emyr Jones Parry. The Council extended the mandates of the Group of Experts and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the Council welcomed the initiatives of the African Union to overcome the political impasse in that country.

The Council considered the work of the International Monitoring and Advisory Board for Iraq, and welcomed the appointment of a new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq.

Expressing concern about tension in Lebanon, the Council by resolution 1553 (2004) extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Council heard the regular briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

By the adoption of a presidential statement, it called for intensified efforts to support the political process in Afghanistan.

On European matters, the Council renewed the mandate of the multinational Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) and that of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia. The Council also welcomed the European Union's intention to launch a follow-on mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the announced completion of SFOR in six months' time.

On 19 July, the Council addressed at a public meeting the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts as it was briefed by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the work of the Committee.

On 20 July, the Prime Minister of Romania presided over a public meeting on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes. The meeting occasioned an interactive debate in which representatives of nine regional organizations participated, together with the

Secretary-General. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a presidential statement on the matter.

During the month of July, the Council held five formal meetings, three public meetings, one open briefing and three private meetings with troop-contributing countries. Its members met on 15 occasions for consultations. It adopted six resolutions and issued four presidential statements. The President was authorized on two occasions to make statements to the press on behalf of the Council members.

Africa

Situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan

The Council met on several occasions at expert level to work on a draft resolution on the Darfur region of the Sudan aimed at putting an end to Janjaweed attacks against civilians and improving the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

At a closed meeting held on 7 July, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General from Nairobi, via satellite, on his visit to the Sudan and Chad from 30 June to 3 July. The Secretary-General reiterated his concern at the grave situation in Darfur. He informed the Council of the joint communiqué issued by the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations on 3 July 2004 in Khartoum, in which the former pledged to take a series of measures to end the humanitarian crisis, including disarming the militias, bringing perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice and removing all obstacles to humanitarian access. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, briefed the Council on the humanitarian and political aspects of the situation, respectively. In remarks to the media after the briefing, the President of the Council called on the Government of the Sudan to fulfil all its commitments. He said that the Council welcomed the joint communiqué and appreciated the role of the African Union (AU), which had offered to deploy ceasefire monitors and help to mediate a solution to the conflict.

On 21 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Jan Pronk, briefed the Council in closed session. He informed the Council that members of the Joint Implementation Mechanism established under the joint communiqué would visit Darfur from 26 to 28 July to assess progress made by the Government of the Sudan on the implementation of commitments made to the Secretary-General in the joint communiqué. The Joint Implementation Mechanism would meet on 2 August to discuss the mission's findings. The Special Representative said that Darfur rebel groups would meet facilitators at Geneva on 22 July to discuss how to revive peace negotiations.

The three-day joint verification mission to Darfur (26-28 July) included visits to camps for internally displaced persons. The mission was scheduled to report its findings to a meeting of the Joint Implementation Mechanism on 2 August.

On 30 July, the Council, by resolution 1556 (2004), inter alia, imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in Darfur. The Council demanded that the Government of the Sudan fulfil its commitments to disarm the Janjaweed militias and apprehend and bring to justice

Janjaweed leaders and their associates. It also called on the Government to fulfil all the commitments made in the joint communiqué of 3 July 2004. The Council strongly urged rebel groups to respect the ceasefire, end the violence immediately, engage in peace talks without preconditions, and act in a positive and constructive manner to resolve the conflict. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report in 30 days and monthly thereafter on the Government's progress, and expressed its intention to consider further actions, including measures under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the event of non-compliance. It endorsed the deployment of international monitors to Darfur under the leadership of AU, and urged the international community to support those efforts. The Council urged the international community to make available much-needed assistance to mitigate the humanitarian catastrophe, and called upon Member States to honour pledges made against needs in Darfur and Chad. Several Council members made statements in explanation of vote before and after the adoption of the resolution. The representative of the Sudan, Ambassador Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed Erwa, who was invited to participate without the right to vote, also made a statement.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

After a closed briefing with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on 15 July, in which the Council was briefed on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it, inter alia, called on both parties to enhance efforts to overcome the impasse in the peace process, to continue to cooperate constructively with UNMEE to maintain stability and prevent incidents in the border area, to speedily implement the decision of the Boundary Commission and to step up cooperation with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Lloyd Axworthy (see appendix II).

Somalia

On 14 July, the Council met to consider the situation in Somalia, having before it the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/469). The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/24) reiterating its firm support for the Somali national reconciliation process, condemning elements obstructing the peace process and calling on the Somali parties to fully implement the ceasefire, ensure security and resolve their differences peacefully. The Council also welcomed steps taken by AU to prepare for the deployment of military monitors to Somalia.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 14 July, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the mini-summit on the Democratic Republic of the Congo held on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa.

On 23 July, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), during which it heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 27 July, in closed consultations, the Council heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Algeria, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004), on the work of the Committee. The

Council had before it the report of the Group of Experts of 15 July (S/2004/551). Following that meeting, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1552 (2004), renewing, until 31 July 2005, the provisions of paragraphs 20 to 22 of resolution 1493 (2003) and all the provisions of resolution 1533 (2004). In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to re-establish, within 30 days and for a period ending on 31 January 2005, the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004) to monitor the embargo. The Council requested that the Group report to it before 15 December 2004.

On 29 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1555 (2004), extending the mandate of MONUC until 1 October 2004. It recalled that the mandate of MONUC was contained in resolutions 1493 (2003) and 1533 (2004), which had been adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter. Noting that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region, and concerned by the ongoing tensions and continued hostilities in the eastern part of the country, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it before 16 August 2004 on the execution by MONUC of its mandate.

Central African Republic

On 7 July, following closed consultations in which the Council was briefed by the Representative of the Secretary-General, General Lamine Cissé, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in that country (BONUCA), the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it noted the positive evolution of the political situation and the progress made in the economic and financial fields. It encouraged the Central African authorities to maintain their efforts in organizing free, transparent and democratic presidential and legislative elections and welcomed the assistance provided by the international community as well as the efforts made by the members of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community. The Council expressed its concern regarding the possible consequences to the Central African Republic of the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan, and requested the Secretary-General to report again on the situation in the Central African Republic, through his Representative, no later than the end of October 2004 (see appendix II).

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 July, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the mini-summit convened by the Secretary-General on 6 July in Addis Ababa, during which the leaders of nine West African States voiced concern at the stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire. The leaders participating in the mini-summit decided to bring the parties in Côte d'Ivoire together on 29 July, in Accra, in an attempt to break the impasse in that country.

Sierra Leone

On the basis of the twenty-second report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/536) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), presented in consultations on 15 July, the Council members took note of significant progress in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone, facilitated by the careful implementation of the UNAMSIL drawdown plan. The Council members also noted the fragility of the

gains made thus far and underlined the need for accelerated progress on the key benchmarks.

Mission to West Africa

On 16 July, the Council held a public meeting in connection with the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, from 20 to 29 June 2004 (S/2004/525). The Mission recommended strengthening regional institutions including the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States, and urged the international donor community to respond to humanitarian appeals for the region. Besides the Council members, representatives of seven countries in the region, the Netherlands and Japan spoke at the meeting, together with the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 14 July, the Council met in closed consultations to hear a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the latest developments in Afghanistan, including the decision on the timing and organization of elections in Afghanistan taken, on 9 July, by the Joint Electoral Management Body established by the Afghan authorities.

On 15 July, in a presidential statement on Afghanistan (S/PRST/2004/25), the Council, taking note of the decision announced by the Joint Electoral Management Body, welcomed and supported the holding of the presidential election in Afghanistan on 9 October 2004. The Council further took note of the decision of the Joint Electoral Management Body to hold parliamentary elections in April 2005. The Council understood that technical and logistical reasons made it impossible, as reported by the Secretariat, to hold simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections by September 2004. The Council stressed the importance of using the remaining months to ensure that the necessary preparations were completed and the conditions met for free and fair elections according to the Electoral Body's timetables. The Council also stressed the importance of accelerated progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to create a safer environment for the elections process.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 13 July, the Council held its regular monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East with the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen. He told the Council that the Israeli withdrawal initiative from Gaza and parts of the West Bank offered an unprecedented opportunity for progress towards peace if implemented in the right way. This entailed full and complete withdrawal by Israel from the Gaza Strip and immediate action by Palestinians to reconstitute their security forces as stipulated in the road map. He further stated that the international community must support the parties along the challenging and laborious road leading to peace.

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

On 23 July, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Council heard a briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

On 29 July, by the unanimous adoption of resolution 1553 (2004), the Council extended the mandate of UNIFIL by six months, until 31 January 2005. Reiterating its support for the territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, the Council expressed concern at tensions and the potential for escalation, as noted in the Secretary-General's report of 21 July (S/2004/572), which covered the period from 21 January to 21 July 2004. The Council reiterated its call on the parties to continue to fulfil their commitments to respect the withdrawal line, to exercise utmost restraint and to cooperate fully with UNIFIL. It further encouraged the Government of Lebanon to continue efforts to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south, including the deployment of Lebanese armed forces.

Iraq

On 12 July, the Secretary-General appointed Ashraf Jehangir Qazi of Pakistan his Special Representative for Iraq. On 22 July the Secretary-General stated that Mr. Qazi would travel to Iraq as soon as practicable and once security arrangements were established to protect him and United Nations staff.

On 26 July, the Council was briefed by the United Nations Controller and Chairmen of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, on the Board's activities since its inception, pursuant to resolution 1483 (2003). The report focused on a number of issues relating to the Board's concerns regarding the control and use of Iraqi oil assets as well as on the next steps to be taken by the Board.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the light of the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to conclude its multinational stabilization force operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of the year, by unanimous adoption of resolution 1551 (2004) on 9 July, the Council authorized participating Member States to continue SFOR for a further six months. By the same resolution, the Council welcomed the NATO decision and the European Union's intention to launch a follow-on mission there starting in December 2004.

Georgia

On 26 July, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), at which it heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi.

On 29 July, the Council met to extend the mandate of UNOMIG, set to expire on 31 July, for a further six months, until 31 January 2005, to maintain stability along the ceasefire lines. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2004/570), in which he recommended an extension of the mandate of UNOMIG, and a letter dated 26 July from the Permanent Representative of Georgia (S/2004/595) which stressed, among other things, that the new Government envisioned a resolution to the conflict through peaceful, negotiated means. By the unanimous adoption of resolution 1554 (2004), the Council called on the parties to overcome their current mutual distrust and take concrete steps to revitalize the peace process. In addition, the Council voiced its deep regret at the Abkhaz side's continued refusal to agree to a discussion of the substance of a document on the Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competencies between the two parties, and stressed that negotiations leading to a lasting political settlement would require concessions from both sides. The Council called on both parties further to publicly dissociate themselves from all militant rhetoric and demonstrations of support for military options. The Council stressed the urgent need for progress on the question of refugees and internally displaced persons, calling on both sides to display a genuine commitment to focus special attention on returns and to work with both the United Nations Mission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It also recalled that the Abkhaz side bore a particular responsibility to protect the returnees and to facilitate the return of the remaining displaced people.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

On 19 July, the Council held an open debate during which it heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Alexander Konuzin of the Russian Federation, in which he presented the Committee's work programme for the twelfth 90-day period (July-September 2004). The Chairman said that the Committee's main task for the twelfth 90-day period was the implementation of resolution 1535 (2004). He noted that the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Javier Ruperez of Spain, was expected to submit an organizational plan in the next 30 days. Ambassador Konuzin had started consultations on the plan with members of the Committee, who expected to consider the draft late in July. He also said that the Committee intended to begin preparations for its first visit to a Member State and to invite representatives of appropriate international organizations to join the mission. He stated that the development of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations was a priority of the Committee. He further noted that the Committee's work had prompted more countries to become parties to anti-terrorism treaties and that the Counter-Terrorism Committee had continued work on the Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance. He drew attention to the problem of inadequate general understanding of the Committee's work, saying that it would continue its efforts to improve its communication methods. Most Council members made statements. The Council also heard statements by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), the Syrian Arab Republic, Liechtenstein, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Côte d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

At the close of the meeting, the Council adopted a statement (S/PRST/2004/26) in which it welcomed preparations for the first visit by the Counter-Terrorism Committee to a Member State and invited the Committee to focus in the next three months on practical measures to implement resolution 1535 (2004) as well as to accelerate its work on country assessments of assistance needs. Noting that, as at 30 June 2004, 71 States had not met the deadline set for submission of their reports to the Committee, it called on them to submit them urgently. It further noted the importance of continuing the Committee's efforts to increase the capabilities of Member States to combat terrorism; to identify and address their problems in implementing resolution 1373 (2001); to facilitate the provision of technical assistance adjusted to the countries' needs; to encourage the largest possible number of States to become parties to counter-terrorism conventions and protocols; and to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations acting in the areas outlined in resolution 1373 (2001).

Thematic issues

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes

On 20 July, the Council held a public debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes, hosted by the Romanian presidency of the Council. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Romania, Adrian Nastase, and included the participation of the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico and heads and representatives of nine regional organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to identify new methods of cooperation and interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as innovative approaches in conflict stabilization processes.

Participants in the meeting welcomed the timeliness of the meeting, emphasized that the Security Council had primary responsibility for peace and security, acknowledged the important role of regional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, and stated that the United Nations and regional organizations would both benefit from cooperating more on building stability. Several proposals aimed at enhancing collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations were advanced which took into consideration certain principles guiding future partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations.

Speakers welcomed the practice of high-level meetings of the Secretary-General with the heads of regional organizations, and invited the Secretary-General to give consideration to the relevant views expressed during the meeting in preparation for the next high-level meeting. Participants also expressed the hope that the recommendations made during the debate would be considered by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to ensure an effective response to security threats.

The development of oversight mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements in the different areas of stabilization processes was recommended, as well as commonality of objectives and adherence to the relevant

provisions of the Charter. For example, monitoring mechanisms could be created which, on the basis of regular and systematic exchange of lessons learned, best practices and joint projects, would themselves contribute to strengthening synergetic efforts.

At the close of the meeting, the Prime Minister made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2004/27), in which the Council encouraged enhanced cooperation and coordination among regional and subregional organizations, particularly through the exchange of information, sharing experiences and best practices. It further invited all Member States to contribute to strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional organizations in all parts of the world, including through the provision of human, technical and financial assistance.

Appendix I

Security Council resolutions and statements adopted in July 2004

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Subject*
1551 (2004)	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
1552 (2004)	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
1553 (2004)	The situation in the Middle East
1554 (2004)	The situation in Georgia
1555 (2004)	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
1556 (2004)	Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Statements by the President

Statement number and date	*Subject*
S/PRST/2004/24 of 14 July 2004	The situation in Somalia
S/PRST/2004/25 of 15 July 2004	The situation in Afghanistan
S/PRST/2004/26 of 19 July 2004	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts
S/PRST/2004/27 of 20 July 2004	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes

Appendix II

Statements made to the press by the President of the Security Council in July 2004

Central African Republic (7 July)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, General Lamine Cissé, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic. They reiterated their full support for General Cissé's work.

The members of the Council noted with satisfaction the positive evolution of the political situation in the Central African Republic and the progress made in the economic and financial fields. They welcomed the various measures taken in the political field, in particular the establishment of the mixed and independent electoral commission, which represent an important step towards the restoration of constitutional legality.

The members of the Council encouraged the Central African authorities, who bear primary responsibility for the success of the transition, to maintain their efforts to organize as a top priority free, transparent and democratic presidential and legislative elections at the beginning of 2005, according to the timetable they have set. The members of the Council also invited them to facilitate greater involvement of Central African women in the electoral transition process currently under way. Finally, they encouraged them to ensure good governance.

The members of the Council welcomed the assistance provided by the international community to the stabilization and recovery of the Central African Republic as well as the considerable efforts made by the members of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) in the security, political and economic fields. They called once again on the international community to provide as soon as possible to the Central African Republic the necessary assistance to ensure the success of the transitional process.

The members of the Council reiterated their full support to the international force of CEMAC and called for the continuation of the process of restructuring the defence and security forces of the Central African Republic. They also urged the Central African authorities to do everything possible to fight human rights violations.

The members of the Council expressed their concern regarding the possible consequences to the Central African Republic of the crisis in the subregion, in particular the crisis in Darfur. They called, therefore, on the international community to increase support for the emergency plan that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is drawing up in this respect.

The members of the Council requested the Secretary-General to report again on the situation in the Central African Republic, through his Representative, no later than the end of October 2004.

Ethiopia and Eritrea (15 July)

The members of the Council heard a briefing on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. They reiterated their full support for the work of UNMEE.

The members of the Council expressed their satisfaction that some restrictions to the Mission's freedom of movement had recently decreased, but stressed that several other open questions such as direct flights between Addis Ababa and Asmara remained unresolved, which resulted in considerable additional costs. They called on both parties to continue to cooperate constructively with UNMEE to maintain stability and prevent incidents in the border area. The members of the Council also welcomed ongoing UNMEE efforts to streamline its operations.

The members of the Council welcomed the recent visit of the Secretary-General to both capitals and expressed the hope that his meetings with President Isaias Afwerki and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi would provide new momentum for an active and constructive involvement of both parties with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. They called on the parties to speedily implement the decision of the Boundary Commission and to step up their cooperation with the Special Envoy in order to overcome the impasse in the peace process. They also called on the parties to enhance efforts to reach an effective and mutually acceptable political solution to the remaining problems.

The members of the Council recalled the commitment both parties had made through the Algiers Agreement to resolve their differences peacefully and to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission.